

POLAR BEAR UPDATE



Arctic Military Police Battalion
BLDG 658, Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505

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28th Military Police Soldiers and CID Agents Rescue Kidnapping Victim

SGT William Kays of the 28th Military Police Detachment, along with two CID Agents, was able to rescue a kidnapping victim in Fort Wainwright. The victim was recovered safely due to the quick thinking and timely response to calls for help after responding to a Missing Person report.

Another Soldier from the 28th MP Det was recognized by the local Fairbanks KTVF-TV News Team. SGT Trinady Parker was featured in this story:

<http://www.webcenter11.com/mediacenter/local.aspx?articleID=14868>



Fort Richardson Recognizes Outstanding Volunteers

Fort Richardson held its' annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on 22 April 2008. The winners for military and civilian volunteers of the year are SGT Christopher Allais and Shanney Allais. SGT Allais and his wife Shanney are currently assigned to the 4th Quartermaster Detachment. Their enormous contributions to the Battalion and the greater Fort Richardson community are greatly appreciated. Congratulations Chris and Shanney for the well deserved accolades.



SGT Christopher Allais and his wife Shanney display their awards for military and civilian volunteers of the year.



A Day In The Life Of A Military Police Dog Handler In Iraq

SGT Tabitha Pindell and Military Working Dog Aris, from the 28th Military Police Detachment, are keeping the perimeter safe at Camp Bucca Internment Facility, Iraq. Together they do Camp and TIF security, and walking patrols around the camp and internment facility. Once a week they do searches in the post office of incoming and outgoing mail. Their efforts greatly enhance the safety of all personnel on the Camp.



SGT Pindell and Aris are trained to handle aggressive insurgents or suspects.



SGT Pindell and Aris patrol day and night, rain or shine.



From Airborne Ops To Retention, 4th Quartermaster Does It All!

By 1LT Alexander Jehle, 4th Quartermaster Detachment

The Soldier's of 4th Quartermaster Detachment (4th QM) have recently finished an intensive month long training exercise which culminated in an airborne operation. During this training event, Soldiers were trained on how to repair sewing machines, parachutes, and cargo bags. Riggers recertified on packing each of the 13 different types of personnel and cargo parachutes. They also trained on how to rig Containerized Delivery System (CDS) bundles and platforms, used to deliver food, vehicles, ammunition and other supplies in airdrop operations. It was a full-unit effort as every single 4th QM Soldier participated in the exercise and jumped in each of the final two airborne operations on 27 March and 3 April.

Units from across Ft. Richardson added to the endeavor including elements of the 207th Group and USARAK, who participated in the last two jumps. The 95th Chemical and 62nd Transportation Companies provided support by recovering the two CDS bundles, serving as a training exercise in preparation for 62nd's deployment to Iraq.

All the while, 4th QM had several reenlistment ceremonies, making it the first unit in the Battalion to reach their reenlistment goal for the year.

Quite a few of these reenlistment ceremonies were made very memorable. SGT Denne Adair reenlisted in front of an F-15 by LTC Hunt. The recent air shows and demonstrations by the new F-22's at Elmendorf Air Base inspired SGT Adair, and made this ceremony especially memorable. SGT Alan Miller was reenlisted inside of the Rigger shop in Building 802 in front of a G-11 cargo parachute. SGT Miller had requested to be reenlisted inside the inflated parachute, but CW2 Joseph Giles, who reenlisted him, couldn't fit inside the canopy alongside SGT Alan Miller. CPT Beth Bellinger reenlisted



Two type V platforms.



LTC Hunt reenlists SGT Adair in front of an F-15 on Elmendorf Air Base.



several other Soldiers including SGT Henryk Maldonado, SGT Darlene Greene, SGT Herman Knight, SPC Thomas Terry, and SPC Jimmy Dang in the company area.

Army Commendation Medals who have been on temporary duty (TDY) in Japan since January. They inspected the 8th Army's war reserve stock of over 40,000 parachutes and Air Items, for serviceability, and then in-serviced new equipment. They have been commended, along with the rest of 4th QM, for completing this mission in half the time allotted them. Job well done.



CPT Bellinger reenlists SGT Knight, SPC Dang, and SPC Terry.



CW2 Giles reenlists SGT Miller.



Military Police Officer Receives Bronze Star

For his distinguished service as a MP Platoon Leader with the 164th Military Police Company in Iraq 1LT Creswell received the Bronze Star Medal. After redeploying back to Fort Richardson, Alaska 1LT Creswell was selected to be the 4/25 BCT Military Police Platoon Leader (Airborne).



1LT Adam Creswell receives his Bronze Star Medal from LTC Thomas Roth.

62nd Transportation Company Conducts MRX

In preparation for their upcoming deployment to Iraq in support of the Global War On Terrorism, the Soldiers of the 62nd Transportation Company conducted a Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX). The unit trained for ten days in an event coordinated and supported by the Arctic Military Police Battalion Staff and companies including 716th EOD Det, 95th Chemical Company, C/84th Engineers, and the 98th Maintenance Company.

The training included several convoys to Fort Wainwright, giving valuable driving time to 62d's newer Soldiers and leaders alike. The company was evaluated on Soldier skills training including dismounted live-fire lanes and live-fire convoy training for mounted operations, skills that will be used downrange as they conduct their transportation mission.



Soldiers of the 62nd Trans staged and ready to conduct their convoy live fire training.



98th Maintenance Takes the Lead on ATV Safety

On April 14, the 98th Maintenance Company took the lead on summer safety training and started their All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) certification training. All of the participants agreed that the training was a great way to kick off the summer riding season and teach them important safe ATV riding skills. For Soldiers that missed the training, more classes will be held throughout the spring as necessary.

The course is based on basic operation and safety of ATVs. It is a day long course and starts with basic maintenance and checks of vehicles and works up to advanced riding techniques. Personnel that have previous experience on ATVs may think that they won't have much to learn, but after they start the course they will likely enjoy it and will certainly learn new tips as well as refresh their knowledge of good, safe ATV riding habits.

"After years of riding experience, I consider myself proficient on this equipment, but even I found a number of helpful tips and pointers to help make my riding more enjoyable and safe," commented SSG Jason Kountz, seen riding in the picture below. The course is open to off-road motorcycles as well.



SSG Jason Kountz negotiates the ATV course on an off-road motorcycle.



C/84th Engineers, Taking Their Show on the Road

From sub-zero temperatures, temperatures exceeding 90 degrees, the month of February found a contingent of Soldiers from C/84th on Sulu Island in the Southern Philippines to take part in Balikatan 2008. Balikatan is a joint exercise between the both the armed forces of the United States and the Republic of the Philippines.

The engineers taking part in the exercise supported the mission of Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) by working on humanitarian assistance construction projects. Because of this unique relationship with JSOTF-P, Soldiers worked in conjunction with Special Forces and Civil Affairs teams in support of their ongoing operations in the Philippines.

Though Sulu is a picturesque tropical island, it is far from paradise. Deep-rooted tensions and violence in conjunction with extreme poverty make this region an ideal location for Army Engineers to use their skills to benefit people in need.

Charlie Rock took on two construction projects – the renovation of a rural health clinic in the municipality of Tandu Batu and the construction of a Nation High School in Pang. Due to the strenuous labor and superb efforts of Soldiers on the ground, both projects were executed during the two week exercise window. When the projects were complete, a dedication ceremony was hosted by the Vice Governor of Sulu to give the new building back to the people.

The mission was an excellent opportunity for all Soldiers involved and the friendship made with the people of the Philippines is certainly something that they will always remember. Being able to build something from the ground up is a significant accomplishment, but knowing that it helps people in need makes it all the more worthwhile.

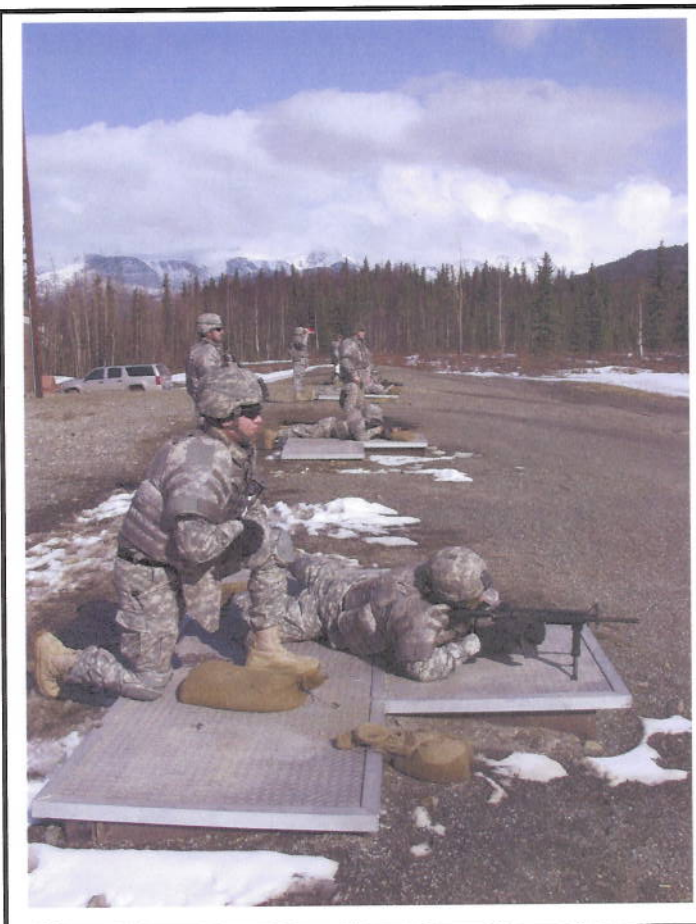




716th EOD Det Trains With the M4A1 Carbine

For the last three weeks, the Soldiers of the 716th EOD have been honing their marksmanship skills. Their training began with pre-marksmanship instruction utilizing their newly received M4A1 Rifles. PMI included identification and engagement of targets utilizing the Back up iron Sight (BUIS), M68 Close Combat Optics (CCO), ACOG Scopes, and PEQ-2A Infrared Target Lasers. Once all Soldiers were thoroughly familiar with their equipment and capabilities they moved on to executing the basic fundamentals at the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST). The EST is a great training tool for Soldier to practice the marksmanship fundamentals. By utilizing the equipment Soldier zero'd and qualified at a virtual reality range. Following the EST, the Soldiers moved on to actual engagements' utilizing their assigned weapons at Grezelka Machine Gun Range. Here the Soldiers engaged known distance targets in order to become comfortable utilizing the new equipment.

Upon completing the known distance range the Soldier moved onto reflexive fire utilizing sim munitions. The sim munitions provided a great training tool while reducing the risk factors normally associated with close distance weapons training. At reflexive fire the Soldiers learned to quickly identify and engage targets. The following day the Soldiers conducted a 4 Mile roadmarch to McGee Range, also known as the Stress Fire Range. Upon arrival at McGee each Soldier ran through the obstacle course prior to engaging multiple targets at multiple firing points. The Soldier were thoroughly smoked upon completion of the range as the range was a true test of engaging targets while under physical stress. Once all this training was complete the Soldiers of the 716th demonstrated their prowess with their assigned weapons by completing weapons qualification at the Record Fire Range where 1SG Bess earned Top Company Shooter with a score of 39. Additional Experts within the Company were SSG Conte (38), SFC Wilson (37), SGT Dickerson (36), SFC Bartley (36), and SGT Molaski (36). All this training has increased the marksmanship proficiency of all Soldiers assigned and culminates in the successful completion of live fire at the Shoot House.





The Battalion Commander's Corner



By LTC Howard Hunt

Polar Bears!

Spring has sprung, even with that late volley of snow, Summer isn't to far away. Safety remains my number one priority! If you plan on riding a ATV this summer, whether you own, borrow or rent, you need to get trained by your unit ATV master driver before operation. Learn the rules of off-road fun before learning them the hard way by breaking bones or injuring yourself. Its easy to get hurt if you don't know what you are doing. The training is free and offered during the duty day, so you cant go wrong.

Same applies to motorcycles- you need the training prior to operation. Once again its free thru the post Safety Office who will set you up with the instructors off post who will train you. If you are new to motorcycling, you must take the Basic Rider Course. If you are returning to the sport and still have a civilian motorcycle license, you can take the Experienced Rider Course and brush up on your skills.

Once trained and licensed, enjoy the ride but watch out for the other guy- you simply are not as visible to cars and often car drivers just don't see you. Good motorcycle training teaches you how to do that but you still remain much more vulnerable than if you were in a car. But statistics show the biggest killer of motorcyclists is themselves. Why? The common crash factors are:

- Too fast for conditions- excessive speed.
- Failure to negotiate a curve.
- Overconfidence and driving aggressively.
- Drinking and driving.

Motorcycle crashes aren't accidents. They are preventable and are usually caused by a serious of factors like those listed above. You can prevent crashes by knowing:



Emergency Braking: Your ability to stop quickly using both brakes to their maximum effectiveness
Direction Perspective: Look where you want to go. Don't focus of road objects or your front tire- where you look is where you go.

Maneuver Anticipation: Focus and think about what might happen and if it did happen, what would you do about it. Be alert and be ready to act.

Risk Management: Know your bike, know your skill level, the road conditions, and traffic conditions. Use Search, Evaluate and Execute as a tool to find and avoid hazards.

Time and Space Safety Margin: Every crash could have been prevented by having more time to react and more space in which to act in, so don't short yourself. Maintain and- safe following distance from traffic, stay out of blind spots and drive your motorcycle like your life depends on it- it very well might.

Enjoy the ride!





Command Sergeant Major's Corner



By MSG Michael Siegel

Hello again Polar Bears!

We're moving into the summer months, and one thing to keep in mind is that not only do we get more active as the daylight hours increase, animals out in the wild do as well. Bear and moose will be coming out and you need to know what to do when you see them. There is always the chance when hiking or camping out here in Alaska to come over a hill and run smack into a bear that you didn't see from a distance.

In the event of a surprise attack that cannot be repelled, it is important not to make eye contact with the bear as eye contact can be seen as aggression. Adopt a submissive posture and remain still; often a charging grizzly will turn away at the last moment. Running isn't really a great option; you can't outrun a bear no matter what you scored on your last PT test.

Where grizzlies do follow through on a charge and actually attack, they will usually bite at the head. The best defense is to lie prone, face down, legs spread to make it harder for the bear to flip you over, and hands gripped around the neck. Normally, once a grizzly is sure you are no longer a threat, it will leave. This is why most wildlife agencies in grizzly country advise that people play dead if attacked. Struggling or fighting back will almost certainly intensify and prolong the attack.

Moose will be much more common, as they tend to wander around developed urban areas with no apparent fear of humans. Moose are extremely unpredictable, however. We all should have seen the moose trampling video that was part of the Newcomer's Brief for years. The best thing to do when you see a moose is stay indoors or in your vehicle.

Maintain your situational awareness and be safe!



"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

- John Quincy Adams

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"Be Vigilant, Be Ready, Be Safe!"

"Polar Bears!"